

Bulletin

Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

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TWENT

IN UMW CONTRACT TALKS MILLER PLOTS AGAINST MINERS

BY DAVID NORTH

The United Mine Workers leadership is desperately trying to call off the nationwide coal strike scheduled to start on November 12.

All the talk by Arnold Miller, president of the UMW, about progress of "noneconomic matters" such as safety is a conscious diversion. It is to cover up

his refusal to fight for a big wage increase and defend the living standards of miners against skyrocketing inflation.

Miller is deliberately underplaying the significance of the money issue because he knows full well that it is on this issue that miners would have to fight the Ford administration.

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Call A Congress Of Labor To Defend Jobs

BY MELODY FARROW

Thirteen trade unions in Massachusetts have signed a statement issued by the civil rights committee of the State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, urging black and white workers in Boston to unite:

"Racism in Boston is being used as a weapon to divide just as the religious question is being used to keep down the people in Ireland. The basic policy of trade unionism is not to divide workers, and to fight these splintering weapons."

The unions who signed the statement include the International Brotherhood of Electrical

Workers, District 65, District 1199 (hospital workers), United Auto Workers, United Packing-house Workers, and the United Steel Workers.

At the same time, Rex Weng, a spokesman for the Council, said they would not end their support for Dukasis, the Democratic candidate for governor who has refused to take any position on the anti-busing campaign.

UNITE

This statement can be a step forward provided the trade unions follow it up with a campaign to unite the working class against all the attacks it faces, for decent housing and schools, and against layoffs.

Every trade unionist in the Boston area and throughout the country must raise the call for a Congress of Labor to mobilize

(continued on page 11)



City workers in San Francisco are conducting a massive campaign to defeat Proposition L which will be on the ballot on November 5. The proposition would abolish collective bargaining for wage increases and gives all power to the Board of Supervisors. Above, a rally at City Hall on October 19.

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Thieu Regime Crumbles As Mass Resistance Sweeps Vietnam

BY MELODY FARROW

Over 1000 youth in South Vietnam marched through the streets of Saigon demanding that President Nguyen Van Thieu resign.

The youth launched an attack against police who tried to disrupt the demonstration, broke through barricades and stoned the National Assembly, burned a police jeep, and tore government posters off the walls.

A wave of discontent and defiance of the hated Thieu dictatorship is sweeping the country. Thousands of workers, poor peasants, and students are jamming into weekend protest rallies against corruption.

In one small town in the Mekong Delta, 10,000 attended a recent rally.

The deteriorating economic and military situation in the South and the growing political struggles of the masses of people

have created huge splits within the Saigon government.

The Catholic Church, long the pillar of Thieu's puppet regime, broke publicly with him on September 8, charging him with corruption. On October 14, 22 deputies from the National Assembly marched through Saigon against press censorship, corruption, and inflation.

The leadership of this protest movement has been dominated by the most reactionary anti-working class forces, from the Catholic Church to monarchists who want to restore the Emperor.

The right-wing and the South Vietnam bourgeoisie fear the upsurge of the working class as well as an offensive by the National Liberation Front and know that Thieu can no longer control the situation.

The Thieu dictatorship is a rotten stinking corpse that is on the way out.

Unemployment has risen to 1.5 million, a staggering figure for such a small country, and many

sections of industry have reduced production 60 percent.

The price of oil and the cost of maintaining the army have constantly fed inflation. Rice has tripled in price over the last three years and hunger is now appearing in many parts of the country.

Thieu is unable to attract any foreign investment and is totally dependent on aid from the United States.

SPEECH

In his October 1 speech, in which he desperately tried to defend himself, Thieu pleaded for more American aid.

His army is demoralized and falling apart, having lost virtually every major battle in the past months. At the beginning of September, the military command abandoned all the forward posts in the Mekong Delta, admitting they would be wiped out.

Out of a total of 1700 planes, over 1000 are grounded for repairs and lack of parts or fuel.

Anti-Thieu leaders have just



President Thieu examining his troops.

released a document called the "Comet" plan, which exposes secret preparations being made with the approval of American officials, to crack down on all opposition.

Stating that "we must draw the lessons from the Korean and Philippine experiences," the document cites plans for a state of seige, blackmail of political opponents, mass arrests, surveillance, and the use of agent provocateurs, especially among students, a special police and military unit in civilian dress. It recommends that foreign press agents be "softened up or bought off."

The document adds that Appling, a US embassy official, "has approved" and is urging "rapid action."

At the same time, Kissinger is trying to organize a consortium of banks to give emergency aid to Saigon.

TERROR

The policies of open terror and dictatorship are defended by

Ford and Kissinger, while they claim that Vietnam military aid must be continued to preserve "democracy."

Now, with civil war growing in the South, the Stalinists refuse to give revolutionary leadership and instead join with the bourgeois opposition.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government, the political arm of the NLF, includes Catholic and Buddhist leaders and members of the liberal bourgeoisie. Its program makes no mention of socialism and includes a formula that pledges to "protect the property rights of citizens over the means of production."

Thousands of workers and peasants have not fought for years against imperialism and its puppets only to follow the Stalinists into supporting a capitalist government.

A new chapter in the Vietnamese Revolution is beginning that will bring the masses into struggle against Stalinism.

Unemployment In France Hits Postwar Record

BY A CORRESPONDENT

As layoffs and bankruptcies intensify in France, unemployment has soared to 534,000, the highest level since World War Two.

Official government statistics reveal that in the month of September alone, 100,000 were added to the unemployment roles.

Skyrocketing inflation, international recession, and the turn towards trade war have thrown French industry into crisis. Huge layoffs are taking place in construction, textile, auto, and the electronics industry.

The decision of President Giscard d'Estaing to limit oil imports will mean the collapse of countless companies.

The conscious policy of the government is to push the weaker small businesses who have difficulty getting credit into bankruptcy and then allow the larger firms to take them over.

The state owned radio-TV has announced it will lay off over 1000, including 500 journalists.

The coal mines of Florent and Faulquemont are being shut down.

CASH

All the auto companies face a drastic fall off in sales on the

domestic and foreign market. Citroen is in a desperate cash crisis and lost a total of \$200 million so far this year.

Neogravure, one of the largest printing houses in France, is near bankruptcy and has filed in the courts for suspension of its debts.

Just when the major basic industries are preparing for mass layoffs, the French trade union federations, including the Stalinist-led CGT, have signed a deal with the employers that accepts layoffs in principle.

In exchange for the paltry compensation that every laid off worker will get 90 percent of his pay for a year, the labor leaders have abandoned any struggle for job security.

This will be a green light for layoffs just at the time when the full impact of the slump is beginning to hit.

To get this sum, a worker cannot have refused an offer of another job by the Agency of Employment, opening the door to a drive to slash wages.

The Stalinists in every country are collaborating with the capitalists by negotiating how many layoffs will take place.

But the revolutionary mood of the working class and its determination to fight can be seen by the growing wave of factory occupations all over France.

Ford Embraces Echeverria But Gets No Deal On Oil

BY FRANK MARTIN

On October 20, President Ford took his first foreign trip as President to Mexico, America's "good neighbor" to the South.

Ford's trip, pictured in the press as a series of friendly chats with Mexican president Luis Echeverria Alvarez, was prompted by a much more important consideration—the oil crisis.

Two weeks prior, there were reports of a big oil find in two southern Mexican states. Initial estimates put the find at around 20 billion barrels.

Ford, and Kissinger, went to Echeverria to see if any deal could be arranged. In particular, he hoped that the Mexicans would market the oil at a price lower than OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Coun-

tries) and thus force world oil prices down.

But, despite the appearance of mutual friendship, there was no agreement reached on oil.

Echeverria stated that it was necessary "to maintain a nationalist and anti-imperialist position" in relation to Mexico's natural resources. And Mr. Flores de la Pena, the Mexican minister in charge of oil, stated that Mexico would never act as "a Trojan Horse" for the international oil companies against the OPEC countries.

The Mexican coolness to a US deal is based on some hard facts. In the last two years, the country's balance of payments with the US has doubled to over \$1.7 billion. Things have all been going one way and now that the Mexicans have a chance to recuperate some of their losses, they are not about to give the US a discount.

As one Mexican economist explained: "Our trade deficit

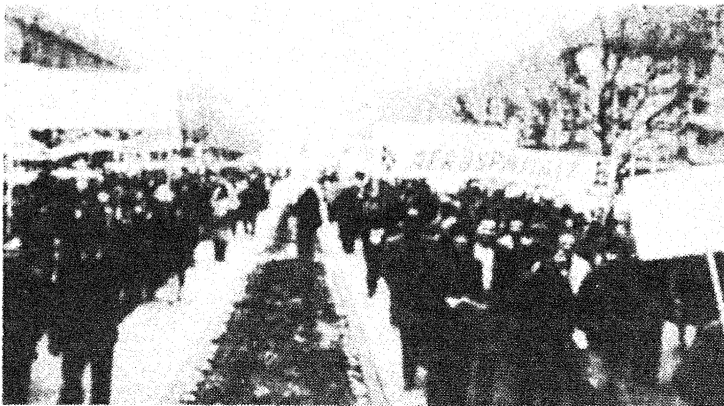
with the United States is no longer compensated by the influx of dollars brought by American tourists. We must get more of our goods into the United States, which is, after all, our natural market. But every time one of our goods begins to compete with an American product, they slap a quota on our sales."

The US has been looking high and low for any alternative source of cheap fuel to counteract the raising of the OPEC oil prices. But the rise in the oil price is itself a manifestation of the uncontrolled inflation unleashed by the decision of Nixon on August 15, 1971 to sever the connection of gold to the dollar.

This has now led to preparations for international trade war, as the capitalist class of each country looks after itself, with oil the trump card.

Canada has also made it clear that it is going to defend its own interests. In an interview with US News and World Report, Canadian Energy Minister Donald MacDonald made it clear that not only will Canada not raise its oil exports to the US, but it will not lower its price.

In reply to a question whether Canadian oil prices are "just and reasonable," MacDonald stated: "One of the reasons its just and reasonable is that on other commodities you charge us world prices. So is there any particular reason why Canadians should be selling their oil to the United States for less than Venezuela charges?"



French workers demonstrating against unemployment.

National Mechanics To Vote On Pact

NEW YORK, NY—Striking National Airline mechanics will vote over the weekend on a settlement of their 14-week strike.

Following a tentative settlement on contract terms, negotiations on a back-to-work timetable broke down October 21 after the Miami Herald printed reports that National was pushing for a staggered schedule of returns and planned to fire 160 stewardesses and all probationary members of the striking International Association of Machinists.

Ratification votes were scheduled after National backed down. The strike, which began July 15, has grounded 400 flights a day and about 7100 workers.

Members of Local 1894 told the *Bulletin* during the back-to-work negotiations that they were sceptical about the new settlement and about the company's stalling tactics.

"If they wanted to stage a layoff, they could wait until the week we go back," one worker stated. "I think it's a threat they'll pull back on, a maneuver so we won't notice it's a rotten contract offer."

A mechanic picketing at the abandoned terminal told the *Bulletin* that the company had sent in maintenance crews to clean up and paint new signs during the last week, obviously expecting to reopen soon.

"But if they come in here with garbage, they can take those new signs and stow them until next year. Otherwise, there's no sense in being out on strike in the first place."

VICTORIES

He said that the union had a history of victories after long strikes, including a 16-month walkout in 1969 that began as a wildcat. He and others are angry, however, that the union hasn't sent extra benefits to the majority of the strikers, who have been denied unemployment compensation by the state of Florida.

"I think we're all agreed here," Alex MacKay, an 1894 official said. "If it's something National Airline could have given us in July, we don't want it."

"They're headed into the busy season, so they want to fly now. During the summer they could live just fine on the \$35 million they had collected from the mutual aid pact."

"National Airlines has had their strike up to now. Maybe now the Machinists should have theirs."

IAM International officials have refused to release details of the settlement until the issue of the return to work is settled. There is every indication, however, that it will stay close to the industry package of 15.8 percent over two years, with two cost of living adjustments of 10 cents.

National's refusal to settle for the pattern settlement in July has been used to help bail out financially-troubled Trans World Airline, the only other carrier which has refused to sign a pact with the IAM.

The government has refused to release the IAM from the restraints of the Railway Labor Act, stalling until the National contract is signed.

"Meanwhile, the airlines ask the government for subsidies to help TWA," MacKay pointed out. "They're asking for our own tax money so they can feed it into the mutual aid pact and use it to break our strike, or a strike at TWA."

NEW YORK, NY—Workers Party candidate Teresa Delgado, running in Brooklyn's 12th Congressional District, presented the Workers League election program on WNYC radio, October 23.

"The most important issue in this election, in Brooklyn as well as nationally, is the economy, the crisis working people are facing in the communities and on the job. With prices at record levels, unemployment now stands at over 5.3 million. Every candidate must address himself to this fact," candidate Delgado said in her opening statement.

"I am running as the candidate of the Workers League. We do not think anything in Brooklyn or in the country as a whole can be solved outside of a fight by working people for a political party of their own, a labor party."



National Airlines mechanics in New York.

IBEW Silent On Telephone Layoffs

BY MARTY JONAS

BOSTON, Mass.—In three days the first layoffs at New England Telephone will hit.

Eight hundred craft workers will be laid off and 400 are being offered the option of taking lesser paying noncraft jobs. Every telephone worker's job is now on the line.

At the same time, Polaroid is laying off 1400 and layoffs are starting at Boston Gas.

One operator said that computers are being brought into the Central Office which "speak" to customers and can replace operators. Any concept of work load limits are gone as operators who quit or retire are not replaced. Work loads have increased tremendously.

The leaders of Local 2222 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have accepted these layoffs without a fight. A strike call one week ago was cancelled on the excuse that "it would be bad to have a strike at the same time as the turmoil going on in Boston."

The IBEW, however, is one of the unions that signed a statement in defense of busing and against the use of racism to divide the working class.

At the monthly membership meeting on November 2, IBEW members must demand the leadership take strike action unless all layoffs are rescinded.

The 1974 contract should be reopened to negotiate a new wage increase, a full cost of living clause, and direct rank and file election of shop stewards.

Demand the IBEW break with Ford's Labor-Management Committee and take the lead in fighting for a Congress of Labor to plan joint labor action to defend jobs.

The demand by the Socialist Workers Party that Ford send federal troops to Boston represents a complete capitulation to the capitalist parties, both Democrat and Republican.

The SWP has now united with a section of the Democratic Party, the Congressional Black Caucus, and has sent telegrams to both Ford and Kennedy demanding they send in troops.

The SWP has abandoned any perspective that the working class independently and through its own strength can defend its rights, and turns instead to the very government that has encouraged the racist campaign to intervene.

Ford and all the Democrats and Republicans in Massachusetts have tried to use the busing issue to whip up an atmosphere of racial hysteria to divide the working class. The role of the police is to provoke both black and white workers, in order to justify the intervention of federal troops and the National Guard and set a precedent for using troops against the entire working class, just as it enters tremendous struggles in defense of wages and jobs.

The only reason Ford has not moved in troops is his fear of a powerful mobilization of the working class in Boston against it.

But the SWP does not begin with the relation of the explosion in Boston to the economic crisis and the attacks facing the whole working class, but with the "moral" outrage of the middle class. Their perspective is no different than the pacifist reformist outlook of

the late Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the October 25 issue of *The Militant*, the SWP devotes four pages to Boston to try and justify its call for troops by comparing the situation to the Little Rock segregation struggle in 1957 and to the 1960s civil rights movement. Don Gurewitz writes:

"Racist resistance to school desegregation is no stronger in Boston today than in the South during the

But the SWP denies the existence of this crisis and says:

"The real question is whether this segregation will end and Black students will have the right to attend any school they wish, including the better schools previously reserved for 'whites only'."

This is an absolutely reactionary statement that is not only false, as anyone who has seen conditions in South Boston knows, but actually feeds racism and helps to

SWP Supports Use Of Troops

1960s. The racists were turned back then by a massive national movement that compelled the federal government to intervene in defense of black rights..."

In March 29, 1965, *The Militant* carried a headline that said: "US Troops Should Be Kept in Alabama."

When the Little Rock struggle took place, the US economy was still in a period of relative prosperity and in the early 1960s, the post-war boom was just beginning to break up.

The gains made in that period were due solely to the determined upsurge of the black working class. King and the NAACP leadership consciously prevented the civil rights struggle from turning towards a revolutionary struggle against the capitalist system.

Whatever concessions the government made then were only possible because the economic crisis had not yet broken out.

In 1965, our movement said that the only way the black working class could fight the organized police terror was to arm itself, not to appeal to the government.

But as wrong as it was in this period to call for troops, it is a million times more dangerous today, at a time of the collapse of the capitalist system internationally.

Uncontrollable inflation has slashed living standards, factories are shutting down and laying off hundreds of thousands of workers, schools and housing are in decay. The crisis forces the capitalist class to drive down the living standards of the whole working class, black and white.

divide the working class.

The SWP has utterly rejected the basic principles of Marxism. Does the SWP agree with Trotsky that racism is the poison of the capitalist system and is used to keep the working class oppressed? Or are they now saying that racism is inherent in the white workers?

If the federal government can be forced to defend black students, then can they also be relied on to curb the inflation and unemployment and defend all the workers needs?

This betrayal is a measure of how far the SWP has turned away from the working class since they broke with the International Committee of the Fourth International in 1964 and reunified with the revisionist Pablove movement.

The SWP's call for troops at a time when Nixon and now Ford prepares the army for intervention against the working class as was shown at Wounded Knee in 1973 is an invitation to disaster.

Is the SWP calling for white workers to be beaten and for the working class neighborhoods to be occupied—in short, do they want another Ulster in Boston?

The Workers League in Boston has fought to take the struggle into the trade unions, to mobilize the power of the labor movement against the racists and to fight for the urgent need of a labor party.

We said in 1965 that segregation could only be destroyed and the rights of all workers defended in the struggle to build a revolutionary party to abolish the capitalist system. We stand on that statement today.



BY FRED MAZELIS

Last month marked the end of the tenth year of publication of the *Bulletin*. The anniversary is being commemorated at public meetings in New York and elsewhere.

This represents an enormous achievement for the international Trotskyist movement. The *Bulletin* maintained the continuity of the Marxist press, of the fight for a revolutionary leadership within the working class, after the Socialist Workers Party went over to revisionism in 1963.

It began as the *Bulletin of International Socialism*. It was launched as a mimeographed fortnightly by a handful of comrades expelled from the SWP in 1964 for upholding Marxist principles when the Ceylonese section of the movement to which the SWP adhered politically, voted to join the capitalist coalition government.

In less than 10 years, the *Bulletin* has grown to its present size and frequency, as a printed 12 page twice-weekly.

Only the *Bulletin* represents the historical continuity of the struggle for Marxism in the United States, first taken up by the *Daily Worker*, and then, following the Stalinist degeneration of the American Communist Party, by *The Militant*, organ of the Trotskyist Communist League of America and later the Socialist Workers Party. The *Bulletin* emerged out of the struggle against the Pabloite revisionism of the SWP.

None of this could have been accomplished except as part of the fight of our international comrades, the International Committee of the Fourth International (although the reactionary Voorhis Act prevents us from formal affiliation in any international organization).

Our tenth anniversary of continuous publication coincides with the fifth anniversary of the *Workers Press*, the daily paper of the Workers Revolutionary Party, the first daily paper in the history of the Trotskyist movement. It also coincides with the tremendous deepening of the economic and political crisis of world capitalism. The development of the international crisis now makes possible a great development in the work of our paper which has been built on international foundations.

From the beginning, the *Bulletin* fought for international principles, for the fundamental lessons of over 100 years of workers' struggles. The decay of capitalism means poverty, war, and barbarism. It must be replaced by socialism. Such a transformation can take place under the leadership of the only revolutionary class in modern society, the working class. But a leadership must in turn be built within the working class, a leadership conscious of the historic interests of the class and how to achieve them.

PROPAGANDIST

The revolutionary newspaper must strive to be the collective propagandist, agitator, and organizer of the movement. At a time when the tasks of the newspaper were of necessity largely propagandistic, the *Bulletin* nevertheless turned its attention to every major development in the class struggle and the trade unions.

The very first issues of the paper included articles on the struggles in auto, the mines, and longshore. Later, as the protest movement against the war in Vietnam grew, the paper fought to link this to the working class opposition to the war and the fight for a labor party as the way to defeat the imperialists and consciously link the fight of the workers in the advanced metropolitan countries and the workers and peasants in the colonial countries. At the Second National Conference of the Workers League in 1967, a resolution on the "Building of a Labor Party" was adopted and then printed in the *Bulletin*.

The postwar economic crisis was beginning to surface with the devaluation of the British pound and the dollar crisis in 1968, followed almost immediately by the tremendous struggles in France and Czechoslovakia.

The *Bulletin* turned toward the devel-

opment of the international crisis and its expression in this country.

Johnson announced he would not seek reelection, and the movement behind George Wallace grew substantially. The *Bulletin* led a campaign to expose the dangers of Wallace to the entire labor movement, to expose the inaction of the labor leaders and to campaign for the building of a labor party.

On July 22, 1968, we reported on the mass opposition to Wallace when he came to speak in Minneapolis. On August 5, we printed a statement on "Where Wallace Stands—How to Defeat Him." The newspaper pointed out that while Wallace was not the leader of a fascist movement, he was part of the development of right-wing forces as the crisis deepened.

WEEKLY—NOV. 1969

The *Bulletin* was the only newspaper to even consider these developments seriously, and the fight it waged in the unions and the working class was a vital part of the preparation for the weekly, which was launched in November, 1969.

The weekly *Bulletin* developed along

take action. When he joined Nixon on the Pay Board less than a month after making this warning, we spoke out on the front page: "Drive Meany Off Wage Board."

"This is the road that Meany's counterparts in Germany took in the 1930s and the road along which Hitler travelled to power. The only way that Nixon, the Democrats and Republicans who are all behind this freeze can be stopped is by carrying this fight through to the end and building a labor party now for 1972."

It was the campaign against the wage freeze and the wage controls through 1971 and 1972 that made possible the launching of the Young Socialists at its conference in New York in December 1971 and its early development. The *Bulletin* led the fight to train a youth leadership against reformism and nationalism. It turned the youth toward the power of the working class in the unions and toward their vital role in creating a revolutionary leadership in the working class.

In 1972, in preparation for the presidential elections, the *Bulletin* published *The Case for a Labor Party*, which was printed in manifesto form as a pamphlet and sold to tens of thousands of workers.

working class to move into action, to demand in every union throughout the country the immediate formation of a labor party, to throw all the Democrats and Republicans out."

In the last year, we have seen the rapid development of the economic crisis and the growing movement of the working class against this crisis. Huge revolutionary struggles in Europe have already begun and the twice-weekly *Bulletin* has the responsibility of fighting for propaganda, agitation, and organization in today's struggles, for the training of a revolutionary leadership in the working class, and especially in the trade unions.

The press must reflect the struggle of the revolutionary party on the theoretical, political, and economic fronts of the class struggle. The paper trains a section of workers as Marxists, at the same time as it intervenes in all the struggles of the class. The theoretical material in the newspaper is at the heart of its work, and none of its influence and work inside the trade unions is possible without this.

The *Bulletin* has given continuous attention to international developments. In its very first issue, it reported on the at-

10 years of the Bulletin

with growing struggles in the labor movement and humiliating defeat for imperialism in Vietnam. 1970 saw a tremendous strike wave, including the GE strike, postal, auto workers and Teamsters.

The *Bulletin* waged a bitter struggle against the SWP revisionists and the Stalinists to mobilize the strength of the labor movement against the war. It fought for concrete policies, including general strike action, to win the long and bitter GE strike. It drew the lessons of the use of the National Guard to break the postal strike. At every point, it fought within these struggles for the labor party demand.

The circulation of the weekly grew enormously in this period. The *Bulletin* warned of the wage freeze and all the other attacks in store long before Nixon's announcements which shook the world on August 15, 1971.

On August 23, 1971, the *Bulletin* explained: "The devaluation of the dollar combined with Nixon's frontal wage freezing attack on the American labor movement draws to a final close the era of postwar prosperity and relative class peace that world capitalism had enjoyed for nearly 25 years. The capitalist clock is now being turned back to 1929 and the 1930s."

We pointed to the unanimous Democratic support for Nixon's vicious measures and called for a Congress of Labor and the building of a labor party.

The *Bulletin* demanded that the union leaders defy the freeze, that they carry out their militant words in practice. We called for general strike action, for no cooperation with wage-price boards or any form of government interference in the unions, for full cost of living clauses in all contracts, the shorter work week, nationalization of industry, and a Congress of Labor to launch a labor party.

When AFL-CIO President George Meany warned that controls were "the road to fascism," we demanded that he

The paper organized a discussion on the political issues raised in this statement.

It organized the campaign for the "National Conference for a Labor Party Now," called by the Workers League and held in Chicago in October, 1972. This was our answer to the preparations of the capitalist class through the 1972 elections for new onslaughts on the living standards and basic rights of the working class.

LAUNCH TUALP

The Chicago Conference elected a continuations committee which called an Emergency Conference of Trade Unionists in St. Louis the following February, after Nixon's reelection. This conference of 300 trade unionists and youth launched the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party.

Both of these conferences were built in the unions and through a serious political struggle against the Stalinists and revisionists, who refused to fight for a labor party, and through a struggle to expose the role of the trade union bureaucracy in its capitulation to Nixon.

The twice-weekly was launched in a new period, after the settlement in Vietnam, and the decline of the protest movement. This is a period of transition to civil war, toward the destruction of bourgeois democracy, and the imposition of dictatorship and fascism in order to preserve this system.

When Agnew was forced out of office just days after the launching of the twice-weekly *Bulletin*, we headlined our issue "Agnew Out! Nixon Next! Build a Labor Party!"

Less than a year later, August 5, the Political Committee of the Workers League stated on the front page of the *Bulletin*: "The resignation of Richard Nixon is a tremendous victory for the working class and a powerful blow to the capitalist class all over the world.

"This must be the signal for the

attempts to partition Cyprus. In the last months, it reported on the big defeat suffered by the American imperialists in their attempted coup on that island.

It has continuously fought for the lessons of the international struggles of the working class, from Vietnam to the Arab and Palestinian struggles against Zionism and imperialism, to the bloody defeat in Chile, the heroic struggles in all the colonial and semicolonial countries, and the latest revolutionary developments in Portugal, Italy, and Britain.

The *Bulletin* has continuously exposed the theory and practice of the Stalinists and the various revisionist tendencies which seek to use the formulas of Marxism in order to remove its revolutionary content and hold the working class within the framework of capitalism.

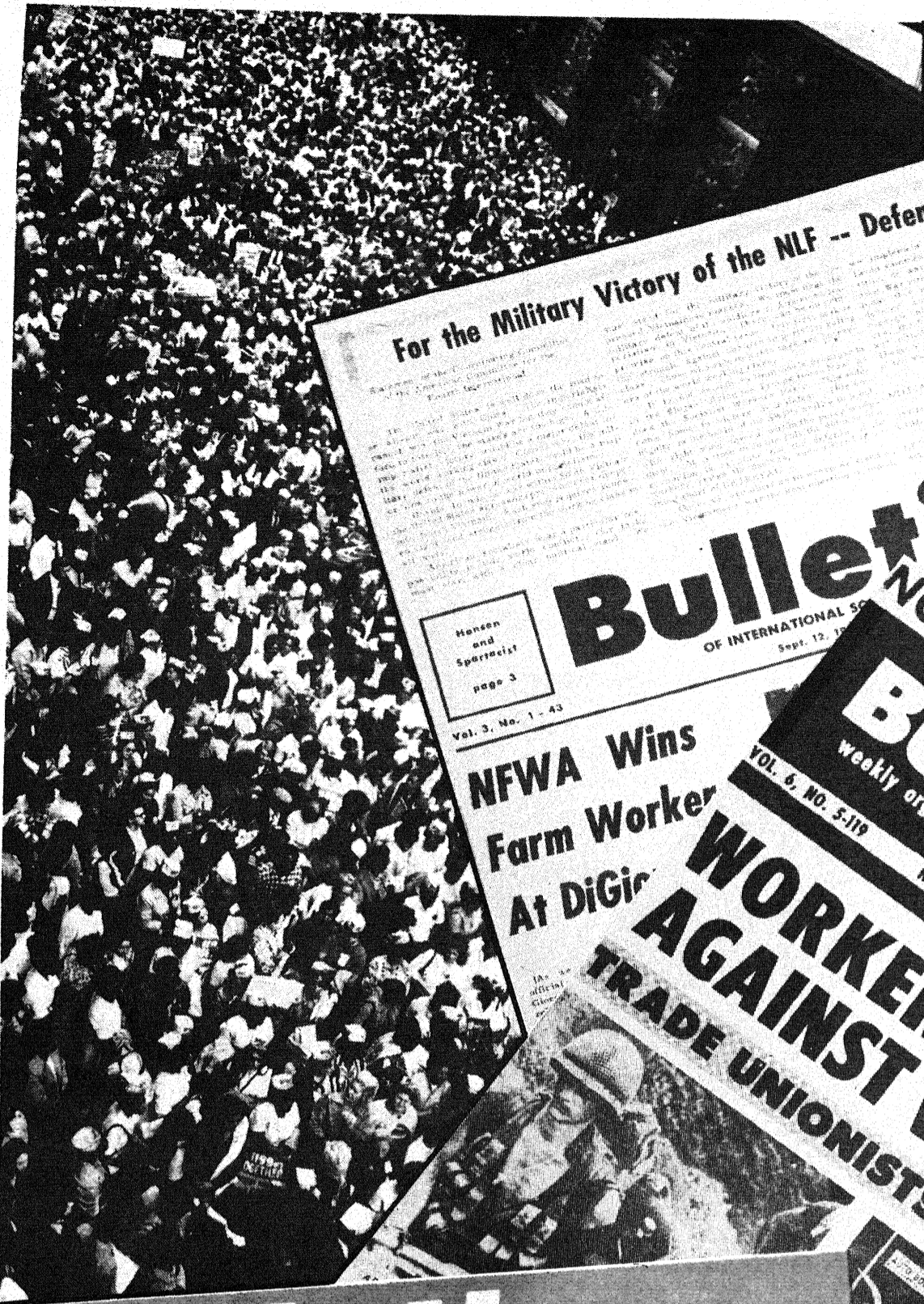
The development of the *Bulletin* would not have been possible without the tremendous support given to the paper inside the working class. At the time of the launching of the weekly, we held a fund campaign which raised \$7000. Now we are in the midst of a campaign to raise \$50,000 in order to keep up with the runaway inflation and lay the basis for a tremendous expansion of the *Bulletin*.

In the last few years, we have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars which has enabled us to launch the twice-weekly with our own modern press.

As we begin our eleventh year of publication, the *Bulletin* must turn confidently to the working class in the factories and unions. The revolutionary developments in Europe and the tremendous political crisis in the US as the world capitalist system plunges rapidly towards slump, mean changed conditions and new and unparalleled opportunities for the building of the newspaper and the revolutionary party.

We are marking our tenth anniversary by launching a campaign for a huge expansion of the sales of the *Bulletin*.

Bulletin



For the Military Victory of the NLF -- Defend China!

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Bulletin

OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Sept. 12, 1974

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Ten Cents

NFWA Wins Farm Worker At DiGi...

Bulletin NOW WEEKLY!

weekly organ of the workers league

VOL. 6, NO. 5-119

NOVEMBER 3, 1969

TER CENTS

WORKERS FIGHT BACK AGAINST VIETNAM WAR

TRADE UNIONISTS: ALL OUT NOV. 15!

Where Progressive Labor Really Stands

BY LUCY ST. JOHN

A New Series

Bulletin

Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

NOW TWICE A WEEK!

OCTOBER 7, 1973

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Agnew Defies Court As Connally Waits In Wings

LABOR MUST ACT!



BY BRUCE MCKAY

Under mounting pressure from the White House to resign, Spiro Agnew has decided to defy the Congress and the courts in a desperate bid to hold on to the vice-presidency.

The possible indictment of Agnew on bribery and extortion charges has thrown the government into the gravest Constitutional crisis in its history, a crisis which cannot be resolved within a Constitutional framework.

Nixon, who faces possible criminal charges in the Watergate scandal, is seeking to oust Agnew to divert attention from his own criminal activities and attacks on democratic rights, and to gain time to win back the confidence of the ruling class and move forward with his plans for dictatorship.

Workers must put a stop to these arrogant attacks on their democratic rights. A Congress of Labor must be called immediately to prepare general strike action to force both Nixon and Agnew out of office, to demand new elections, and to construct a labor party on a socialist program.

Nixon plans to replace Agnew with John Connally, the former LEJ croony who switched parties and became Nixon's Treasury Secretary and special advisor.

Nixon puts forward Connally as the man tough enough to pursue the ruthless assault on European and Japanese capital that Wall Street is demanding and to grind his spurs into the backs of American workers.

Like Nixon, who has refused to release evidence which could establish his own criminal involvement in the Watergate bugging, Agnew is wrapping himself in the Constitution and using the power of his high office to avoid being thrown in jail as a common criminal.

His lawyers have filed a motion in US District Court in Baltimore demanding a halt to the grand jury investigation, claiming that Agnew, as vice-president, is above the law, that like a dictator, he is the law.

"The Constitution forbids that the vice president be indicted or tried in any criminal court," his lawyers' motion before the court claims.

(Continued on Page 6)



45 Years Of The Trotskyist Press

BY THE EDITOR

Just as it plotted the right-wing fascist coup in Chile, the Nixon government is preparing a similar move to crush that will fight for this prospect.

The twice-weekly Bulletin will fight every force in the labor movement that seeks to prevent launching of the Trotskyist press in the US.

In 1929, Trotsky was ousted from the Soviet Union for defending the principles of the workers' movement against

In 1951, the Socialist Workers Party, whose leaders went back in 1928, abandoned the principles upon which it had been founded. It wrote off the workers' party, leaving its movement on the streets.

Catholic lay school teachers, Local 1251, AFL-CIO, on strike in Brooklyn and Queens Diocese. Teachers have rejected 3 percent wage offer. See story page 5.

Frigidaire Men Must Place No Confidence In Sexton

BY JOHN WERNER
DAYTON, Ohio—Arnold Thompson, president of the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 801 at the giant Frigidaire plant, suffered a defeat last week in his bid for reelection.

His defeat reflects the bit-

ter opposition among the ranks to the notorious wage cut negotiated by Thompson three years ago and to his plans to help General Motors split the 14,000 workers in the plant into two locals.

Hubert Sexton, supported by the IUE International leadership, garnered 2575 votes to win the election. Bill Walters received 2036 votes, and Thompson came in third with 1850

votes. Luther Holt got 425 votes and Bill Davis got 272 votes.

Despite Thompson's defeat, the new president, Sexton, is part and parcel of the same reactionary bureaucracy which is responsible for the big decline in Frigidaire workers' living standards over the last three years. Sexton is a former International Representative, part of the Shump machine, who has close ties with both the Democratic Party and Arch Little, an AFL-

CIO official who played a major role in the 1971 wage cut.

Sexton has stated that he is opposed to the splitting of the local, but workers should place absolutely no confidence in his promises.

He has said absolutely nothing on the issue of the fight for a wage reopener for appliance workers and a 100 percent cost of living escalator clause for all workers.



Hubert Sexton

employment and the destruction of living standards through inflation and wage controls, workers must formulate independent policies representing the interests of their class which can be fought for by a labor party.

A basic question that a labor party based on the trade unions would have to confront is the nationalization of industry under the control of the working class.

The "militancy" espoused by Walters is absolutely no substitute for the serious political struggle that must now be taken up.

Furthermore, the question of democracy within the unions—an important issue within Local 801 after years of Thompson's goon squads—raises these political issues most sharply. There can be no real democracy within the unions as long as the bureaucracy collaborates with the government and places a strait-jacket on the struggle of workers in defense of their living standards. The absence of any political program to fight back against the attacks of the government is the real source of bureaucratic bossing inside the unions.

The election results in no way ends the struggle for a new leadership in Local 801.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party is committed to building a caucus in Local 801 that can unite all Frigidaire workers against the attacks on the union and their living standards.

We call on all Local 801 members to join the TUALP and fight for the following demands:

- Restore the money stolen by the wage cut to Appliance Division workers.

- A 20 percent across the board wage increase for all workers combined with a 100 percent cost-of-living escalator clause.

- No splitting of Local 801.

- Defend all jobs with a 30 hour week and 40 hours pay.

- IUE must call for a Congress of Labor to unite the entire trade union movement against Ford through the construction of a labor party.

Steel Wildcat In Youngstown

BY A REPORTER
YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio—Commercial Shearing workers have continued to shut all production in a wildcat strike now in its second week.

President I.W. Abel and District 26 leaders of the United Steelworkers of America sent special representatives to speak at an emergency union meeting and order the men back to work. This followed a court ordered injunction against the workers issued last Friday.

But the men have refused to abandon their shop steward, whose firing triggered the walk-out. This dismissal took place just three weeks after the Commercial Shearing contract was signed, patterned on the Big Three contracts.

For the last six months, Commercial Shearing has paid the Universal Scheduling Company to lay the groundwork for speed-

up through plantwide time and motion studies. Since Universal was brought in, each man's machine is checked out hourly.

The shop steward was fired for "lack of interest in his job" due to his failure to make a quota on a non-rated job. This so-called quota was set down on inspection, a job on which bonus pay is not even made.

A worker on a precision machine burner told the Bulletin: "Pickets were out again after the union meeting. I feel we should get the man's job back before we go back to work."

"But the union leaders down there are pretty weak. If it were up to me, I would have told the men to stay out."

"This is the most skilled labor area in the United States. If the companies can do this here, then they'll be able to do it anywhere."

"Like the Committeeman said Wednesday night, we let this happen and there will be slave driving at Commercial Shearing."

Commercial Shearing is clearly trying to lead the way for massive speedup and layoffs. General Fireproofing, next to

Commercial Shearing, recently had a time and motion study company brought in. The workers wages have been cut to \$36 a day, compared to Commercial Shearing's \$45 wages.

There has been 100 percent support for the wildcat. Many of the men are especially bitter about the new contract, settled on September 29.

BASIC

Commercial Shearing men got the basic steel agreement of 26 cents, 16 cents, and 16 cents.

Not only is the settlement worse than the last one, as workers pointed out, but Abel has agreed to the speedup plans of the company.

Members of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party have taken up a fight to demand the USWA back the strike and defend the shop steward. Steel workers must insist on a policy of:

- No cooperation with time and motion studies.
- Oust Universal Scheduling from the plant.
- Force Abel off Ford's Labor-Management Committee.

Hager Hinge Ranks Out 3 Months

BY A REPORTER
ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Members of United Steel Workers Local 1509 have been out on strike since early August against the Hager Hinge Company.

"They're paying the police off now to escort the trucks into the plant," one Local 1509 member said.

"The companies make the laws to help them. The union can't do anything if they go by their laws."

"A truck came to load up hinges and it had a two-police car and one-paddy wagon escort. The paddy wagon wasn't for loading hinges, though. The

truck was an L&N truck, from the L&N railroad.

"Johnny Belz, one of the owners, went out and got a chauffeur's licence."

"And all the office workers are now running the plant. They aren't unionized."

DECLINE

As the construction industry collapses and steel prices rise, Hager faces a decline in profits. The company will make every effort to resolve this by squeezing profits out of the members of Local 1509. Workers' living standards will be driven down by denying adequate pay increases to meet the cost of living.

Simultaneously, the company will replace workers with machines. The large plating tanks and hinge brushing used to be manual operations. Now, they are automated.

Hager Hinge must, however, try to break Local 1509 to fully implement these policies. Since St. Louis trade unionists have shown great strength in fighting the companies, Hager's only hope is the complacent Local 1509 leadership.

Another member of Local 1509 said: "We asked that if we attempted to stop scab trucks, what would the union do? Would they bail us out?"

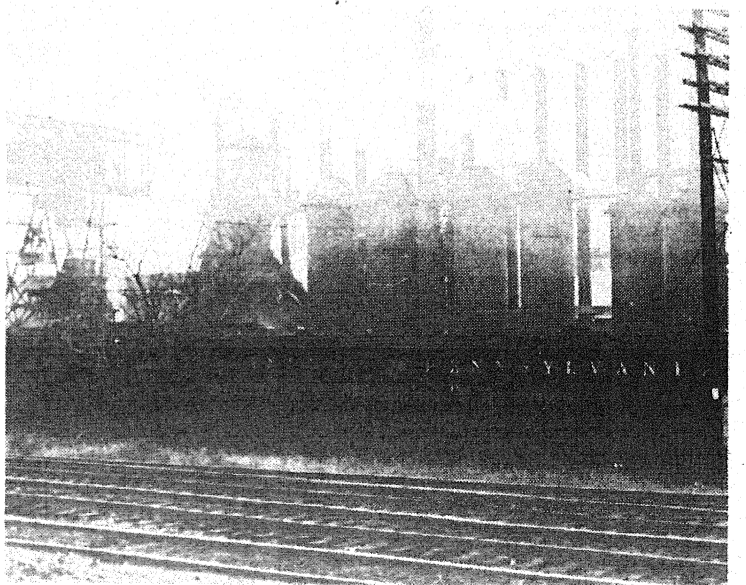
"The union officer said no. They didn't want to stick their necks out. The guy down there said 'no violence.'"

ALLIANCE

This is the outlook of I.W. Abel, USWA president who has cemented an alliance with the Ford government by joining the Labor-Management Committee and works with the employers to hold down wages and prevent strikes.

- The entire trade union movement in St. Louis must assist Local 1509 in shutting down Hager Hinge completely.

- Hager workers must have full cost of living protection. The jobs of the workers who led the June wildcat must be insured. Build a caucus in Local 1509 of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party.



Steel mills in Youngstown are preparing mass layoffs.

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Cable Plant To Close Division

BY YVONNE BADES

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—General Cable Industries, producing wire used in telephone cars, and appliances, has announced that the entire enamel division will be shut down by December 1.

Two hundred and twenty-five workers, members of the International Union of Electrical Workers, will be thrown out. Workers in other departments employed since 1965 will be threatened also.

Only those having other factory related skills will be able to compete for other positions. Seniority will not be considered in these transfers.

The enamel division is responsible for coating the wires used in electrical wiring. Henry, one of the workers, said: "If the enamel division is closed, the wire drawing division will probably be next."

"They want an open shop to pay people only half the union wages."

SIDED

Most union representatives have completely sided with the company's attempt to pit workers against each other. They have allowed speedups and overtime. The company is trying to bring in straight time in the place of overtime which means workers are supposed to give up their time off for standard weekly pay.

At the same time as General Cable is cutting back production, it is being threatened with breach of contract suits from its customers such as Bell Telephone and General Electric. The massive rise in raw material costs now makes it unprofitable for this factory to produce.

The IUE must fight to defend every job General Cable is trying to destroy. Because of the economic crisis facing this company, the job cut can only be defended through nationalization without compensation and under workers' control.

Every IUE member must demand that the union fight for a Congress of Labor to unite the working class around a program to fight unemployment and to organize a labor party.

Tension High At Sparrows Point

BY A REPORTER

BALTIMORE, Md.—On October 13, approximately 100 men walked out of the bethanizer section of the Rod and Wire Mill at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point works.

This wildcat was sparked by grievances involving incentive pay, working conditions, and crew cutting.

According to men who work in the mill, the issue of incentive is two-fold. First, the men feel the incentive rates are not high enough, and secondly, the company actually cheats on computing the present incentive rates.

The company has been attempting to cut crews. When a man calls in sick, the company forces his crew to work one man short. This also cuts down on the incentive pay earned.

The men are also demanding incentive pay for producing scrap steel, a by-product of the bethanizer process.



Members of UAW Local 365 picketing outside Standard Motor Company in Long Island City, N.Y.

Walkout At Standard Motor

BY A REPORTER

LONG ISLAND CITY, NY—Members of UAW Local 365 are on strike against the Standard Motor Company, demanding a 25 percent wage increase and an end to brutal harassment by the management.

The strike began on October 2 as a wildcat. Workers refused to go along with a 10-day contract extension proposed by the local leadership. The strike was made official after the UAW International belatedly endorsed the walkout.

Workers have no confidence in the official leadership and elected an independent committee to oversee negotiations between the UAW and Standard.

Inside the plant, workers have experienced the most vicious speedup and deterioration of working conditions combined with arbitrary attacks against any worker who fights back.

The pay scale is far below the wages of auto workers employed by GM, Ford and Chrysler. A large majority of the Standard workers earn less than \$2.50 an hour.

"It's about time that the workers get together," declared Rafael Ramirez, a former committeeman who was fired last year because of his reputation as a militant.

He received no support from the leadership of Local 365.

"In this plant, they fire you and then claim that you left voluntarily," stated Ramirez. "If you open your mouth and talk, they call you a communist."

About 60 percent of the workers inside the plant are women. Workers report that the bosses have warned women workers that they must work "at 100 percent efficiency" for all eight hours or lose their jobs.

The company produces distributor caps, spark plugs, points, ignitions and truck keys.

The enormous crisis in the auto industry, marked by a sharp downturn in sales and plans for mass layoffs, will have a big impact on Standard. A decline in production by GM, Ford and Chrysler will mean a sharp reduction in the demand for auto parts.

It is for this reason that the fight of Local 365 workers must be linked to a national campaign of auto workers against the attack on jobs and living standards.

Every auto worker faces brutal speedup and the threat of unemployment because of the economic crisis.

Standard workers must demand that the UAW back their strike by calling a national auto workers strike now around the following program:

- An immediate 25 percent wage increase with 100 percent cost-of-living escalator clause.
- No layoffs! Establish a 30 hour week at 40 hours pay!
- Stop the speedup!

Leonard Woodcock, president of the UAW, has shown again and again that he will do nothing to defend the needs of auto workers. He is no different than Marco Cicala. A new leadership must be built in Local 365 as part of a national fight.

Chrysler Production Cut Threatens Detroit Plant

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN

DETROIT, Mich.—Chrysler Corporation recently announced a "stringent and intensive" cost cutting program that would include production cuts, plant closures, and layoffs of supervisory and white collar personnel as well as production workers.

This bombshell announcement has now been followed up with a report that the company is undertaking a "feasibility study" on the advisability of shutting down its entire Jefferson Avenue Assembly Plant in Detroit.

The plant, the company's oldest, employs 5000 workers in pro-

ducing Chrysler and Imperial cars.

Workers at the Jefferson plant, most with many years of seniority told the Bulletin:

"Sometimes we work eight hours, sometimes seven and a half. They are definitely cutting down on supervision. A lot of foremen are back on the line."

WEAKEST

Chrysler, the weakest of the Big Three, is at the very center of the worldwide collapse in the auto industry.

A report released by the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday revealed that Chrysler lost \$8 million in the third quarter of this year. While reporting profits of \$11.2 million on their North American operations, the corporation reported a whopping deficit of \$19.2 million on overseas production.

Chrysler profits in England are almost zero and huge losses have been absorbed in Argen-

tina, Brazil and France.

Fourth quarter production schedules anticipate a slash of 25 percent compared to last year.

If these figures are taken in the context of the worldwide slump in auto, it is clear that Chrysler is facing not just a cut-back but the very real danger of bankruptcy and closure.

The reaction of the UAW bureaucracy to this threat has been absolutely criminal. UAW vice-president, Douglas Fraser, issued a statement expressing his "shock and dismay." According to Fraser "The devastating effect of such a closing on the workers involved and on the economy of Detroit and Michigan is too tragic to contemplate."

It is not "contemplation" or even shock and dismay that hundreds of thousands of UAW members expect from Mr. Fraser and his fellow bureaucrats at Solidarity House, but action.

Ford and GM are also preparing cost cutting measures. It is the cold hard facts of the red ink appearing in the corporate balance books that determine these actions. The BIG Three are consciously preparing for recession and massive, permanent layoffs.

Recession and the danger of mass unemployment can only be fought by rallying the tremendous power of the UAW and the trade union movement against the layoffs through a political struggle.

The UAW must declare that it will not permit Chrysler to be closed. Any attempt by the company to shut its plant must be met by a massive factory occupation backed up with the full support of the labor movement.

Such a fight must be taken forward by forcing Woodcock and the rest of the labor bureaucracy to break off all collaboration with the Ford government.

Chrysler workers can only defend their jobs by fighting for a Congress of Labor to launch a labor party committed to nationalize Chrysler (and any other company that threatens closure) under workers control and without compensation.

wages and jobs of steel workers. Steel workers are not going to let the ENA no-strike deal prevent them from taking up a fight against these conditions.

I.W. Abel must be forced off Ford's Labor-Management Committee. The right to a job must be defended on the basis of a 30 hour work week for 40 hours pay.

Steel workers must launch a campaign to reopen the contract to fight for a 25 percent wage increase and a 100 percent cost of living escalator clause. Crew sizes and work quotas must be determined by union committees.

All of these demands pose the necessity of nationalizing the steel industry and all basic industries under workers control. This requires a campaign in steel for a Congress of Labor to construct a labor party based on the unions.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party is leading a fight for this program in the USWA to build a new leadership against the Abel bureaucracy.

At the present time, there are fairly extensive layoffs at Sparrows Point. This is covered up by the fact that the layoffs are only for one or two weeks at a time, and are being rotated around the different mills.

If the reports of some management sources are true that orders are beginning to cancel out, it means that tremendous layoffs threaten the men at Sparrows Point.

The productivity deal that I.W. Abel has agreed to has allowed conditions in the mills to deteriorate and poses a threat to the

"We Don't Need Arms" Says Cunhal

Alvaro Cunhal, the Portuguese Stalinist leader, has renounced any attempt to arm the working class against the threat of reaction and a fascist counter-coup.

At a Press conference this week in Lisbon he set the scene for the 7th Congress of the Communist Party to be held on October 20, by placing the country in the hands of the armed forces.

Cunhal—the main prop to the capitalist government of General Costa Gomes—disavowed any attempt to bring socialism to Portugal.

He said there was no need for communism, that the CP did not intend to build communist parties in the Portuguese colonies, the workers would not be armed and that the aim in Portugal was "democracy and liberty."

Cunhal was forced himself to raise the issue of Chile.

"Many people asked about the function of the Armed Forces Movement and if there will be another Chile in Portugal," he said.

"But we have trust in the Armed Forces Movement be-

As Portugal Army Busts Occupation

THE ARMED forces in Portugal on Tuesday broke the first strike and occupation since September 28—the day workers in Lisbon stopped a fascist counter-coup.

The scene of the confrontation was Santarem, 30 miles north of Lisbon. At 3 pm, soldiers led by officers of the Armed Forces Movement ejected workers occupying municipal buildings.

For an hour the center of the town was under virtual martial law, with soldiers and military police blocking the streets.

One old council worker, Raul Garcia, who was fighting for an increase in his \$14.40 a month wage, spat on the ground when the occupation was lifted.

"We have never got rid of fascism," he said. "In Portugal they are still here. These are the new fascists. That captain has a pistol. He is pointing it at the heart of the people."

SHORTER HOURS

The 380 council workers of all grades were fighting for more pay, shorter hours and the removal of the old fascist administration, led by the town clerk.

The confrontation began about noon when two officers of the Armed Forces Movement visited the occupation and warned it was illegal under the anti-strike

cause it always appeared to serve the people and fight against the fascist dictatorship."

He said people had to trust in the Armed Forces Movement and added that after the election, planned for March next year, it would be up to the armed forces to decide what they would do.

Cunhal's words are an echo of Stalinist leaders in Chile who talked about the democratic role of the army days before the

coup.

Cunhal's claim that the forces stopped the return of fascism on September 28 is a calculated distortion.

It was workers, together with rank-and-file soldiers, who manned the barricades in Lisbon to prevent the reactionaries getting in to the center of the city.

But the Stalinists, like those in Chile, want the working class unarmed as a gesture to the bourgeois parties.

49 Killed In Mozambique

Forty nine people were killed and hundreds were injured as fighting broke out in the streets of Lourenco Marques, the capital of Mozambique.

The latest fighting broke out when a Portuguese soldier pushed a youth wearing a shirt with a FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) flag on it. Several FRELIMO soldiers intervened and Portuguese soldiers began firing, killing two FRELIMO soldiers and seven passers-by.

When news of this incident spread, thousands of black workers in the shantytowns around the town took to the streets.

The provocation by the Portuguese troops again demonstrates the bankruptcy of the FRELIMO leadership which has accepted an "interim" period of joint rule with Portugal.

Cunhal said: "I am going to tell you a secret of the Communist Party. The Communist Party needs no arms. We need arms in Portugal to defend democracy. They are in the hands of the armed forces."

While Cunhal was pledging his full support to the provisional government, the government itself announced two laws to give support to private industry and the landowners.

The system of state support for one private monopoly in each

major industry is to be abolished.

Monopolies under state supervision will remain in important sections like sugar, chemicals, and metal manufacture, while in other sections small businesses will be allowed to develop.

In the countryside, the score or so big landowners will be protected, but the state will take over bad land and prevent subletting by peasants.

The Stalinists have approved of both these measures.

The recent visit of General Costa Gomes, the new Portuguese Premier, to the US shows that Henry Kissinger is taking an active interest in Portugal.

Few details about the meeting were released other than the renewal of the US lease on the Lajes Air Base in the Azores in exchange for aid.

But the real aim of the visit was to cement a counterrevolutionary alliance against the Portuguese working class and step up CIA activities in Portugal. Any aid agreement can only be accomplished by US demands that Gomes crack down on the working class.

The US press is deliberately blacking out any news about the events in Portugal. We reprint here two reports from Stephen Johns, the Workers Press correspondent who is now in Lisbon.



Portuguese troops move in to break council workers strike in Santarem, outside of Lisbon.

laws passed by the provisional government.

One officer was Captain Bernardo, a prominent figure in the AFM that now holds the balance of power in Portugal.

Bernardo said he was sympathetic with the strikers' demands. He had contacted the provisional government and they were prepared to talk.

PREVENT BREAK

"But you must at least lift the occupation. Trust us. We will take up your problems honorably," he told the crowd of workers who surrounded him.

The workers refused. One

pointed out that the occupation was to prevent the fascist administration breaking the strike.

"A strike that is broken is a strike that is lost," he said.

Bernardo clearly lost his patience: "In this case you have no choice. We are going to put you out—we and the police."

"You are in an illegal situation. What you are doing is against the provisional government and against the Armed Forces Movement."

Half an hour later soldiers from the local tank regiment occupied the town—they were well disciplined, though some did fra-

ternize with the local population.

Strikers said that some soldiers had told them they would not use their guns against the people.

(Later officers gave the ranks a pep talk in the barracks on the necessity of the action).

The occupation was lifted when the officers went in. Later members of the old fascist administration who were not removed after the army take-over in Portugal on April 25 were escorted into buildings by soldiers.

One young worker told me: "There are the robbers. We

changed a government on April 25, but the bosses are just the same."

Another youth gave the fascist salute and shouted "Spinola" at the soldiers.

A spokesman for the strike committee said:

"This is the first strike and occupation since September 28. What happened here is important. It shows the people what the provisional government really is—enemies of the people.

"The PIDE (the secret police of the fascist regime) are finished, but here we see the methods of the PIDE."

Furniture Local At Stake In Barker Strike

BY DAVID KEPHART
PORTLAND, Ore.—United Furniture Workers Local 1090 has entered the fourth week of its strike against Barker Manufacturing Company.

Local 1090 is demanding a \$1.50 hourly wage increase, a cost of living escalator, and improved benefits. Barker has arrogantly offered one and a half cents after 13 months, and mandatory overtime.

Barker workers are bitter about the attempts to break the union. "Barker thinks he can wait this out. He thinks one by one we'll go back to work, until he's broken the union," said one worker.

"If you have a family, you know why we'll stay out. The highest wage here is \$4.32. That's where most other factories start."

The company fired the union officials September 5, allegedly over a one-day walkout just before the negotiations were to begin. A deal was patched up between the national bureaucracy of the UFWA and Barker, and the officials came back September 19.

Barker has publicly announced his intention of "con-

verting plants One and Two into nonunion plants." Snelling and Snelling, the large personnel agency, is filling Barker's order for 600 new people (union membership is now 500). Strike-breakers are turned away each day by the pickets.

Richard McAfee, president of Local 1090, has stated that federal mediation had accomplished nothing and that the strike would probably continue through the end of October.

Barker is seeking to smash the union in anticipation of layoffs because of the slump in construction which immediately affects the furniture industry. Barker hopes to use this unemployment to hire workers at lower wages and to bust the union shop.

The acceptance by McAfee of federal mediation is a warning to Barker Workers that he is not prepared to fight all the way on wages and the cost of living. These demands pose a tremendous threat to the company.

The Barker men must mandate the leadership to accept nothing less than the full demands. At the same time, a struggle against the threat of layoffs must begin now.

The contract must include a guarantee against layoffs and the fight for a Congress of Labor and a labor party to nationalize the construction and all basic industries under workers control.

BOSTON . . .

(continued from page 1)

the working class against the threat of mass unemployment and factory closures.

Racism is being used to divide the working class precisely to head off a struggle against unemployment and is being used as a battering ram to break up the trade unions. It is no accident that the government created the busing controversy in Boston, where the unemployment rate is one of the highest in the country.

The announcement by the Chrysler Corporation of losses of \$8 million and of their plans to possibly close the Jefferson plant in Detroit is a stark warning to every worker.

The economy has now entered an irreversible slump that will mean some of the biggest plants in the country will be closed overnight.

Unemployment is now at 5.3 million and is hitting hard in the auto and construction industries. New England Bell Telephone is laying off 1300, and utilities in Connecticut and in every section of the country are laying off. Workers in the airlines, aerospace, electronics, steel and textiles face the same threat.

WAGES

At the same time, prices continue to soar and real wages fall. In September, the Consumer Price Index rose 1.2 percent—12.1 percent more than a year ago. The price of meat, fish, and poultry went up 3.2 percent.

Having condemned the use of

racism in Boston, the UAW and IBEW must fight to stop the layoffs and demand job security for their members. This means breaking with the Democratic politicians who call for a wage freeze and agree with Ford's measures to deepen the recession, as the price workers must pay to restore profits.

While UAW official Bard Young admits that 20,000 have lost their jobs in Michigan through plant closures between 1967 and 1973, the union's answer is to pressure for "aid for dislocated workers, job placement, relocation allowances, and retraining programs"—in short, to accept the unemployment as inevitable.

The only way to unite the working class is by putting forward a concrete program of action to defend jobs and living standards and by building the alternative to the Democrats and Republicans—a labor party.

In every union local, the demand must be raised that the unions convene an emergency Congress of Labor to prepare strike action against layoffs.

The unions should prepare occupations of any plant, such as Jefferson, that closes down.

The Congress of Labor must organize an independent political party of the working class, a labor party, against the Ford-Rockefeller government and its Democratic allies, to fight for 30 hours work and 40 hours pay to provide employment. All basic industries and the banks must be nationalized without compensation and under workers control.



MacMillan workers on picket line.

MacMillan Strike Wins Support

NEW YORK, NY—Workers at the MacMillan Publishing Company have begun their second week of picketing to demand immediate union recognition and the rehiring of 200 workers fired last week.

The New York Central Labor Council has officially recognized the strike and demanded a meeting between company officials and leaders of the drive to organize MacMillan staff into Local 153, Office and Professional Employees International Union.

The picket line includes most of the fired workers, plus many employees who have walked out in support. The union has filed unfair labor practice charges against the company.

Donna Mobley, head of the organizing committee, told the Bulletin that there will be no delay of the union referendum, in spite of the firings.

MINERS . . .

(continued from page 1)

While the issue of safety is important, the number one issue in this contract fight is the smashing of Ford's wage-cutting "anti-inflation" program.

Miller is maintaining the closest contact with the government in the midst of the contract negotiations.

MILLER

•Last week, Miller called on President Gerald Ford to intervene in the negotiations if the talks stalled on the safety issues. It is reported that Ford told Miller that he would intervene if a strike appeared inevitable.

•A UMW official admitted to the Bulletin that Miller has attended at least one session of the Labor-Management Committee since the contract talks got underway. This official stated that the UMW "is concerned about the impact of a coal strike on the economy."

UAW President Leonard Woodcock used precisely the same language last year before signing the most rotten contract ever presented to auto workers.

Miller's cozy relations with Ford are a betrayal of the miners. Business Week, the leading magazine of the corporations, recently noted that the BCOA is optimistic about avoiding a strike.

Business Week explained: "The brighter outlook is partly a result of President Ford's designation of Miller as a member of the new Labor-Management Committee, obviously an effort to defuse coal bargaining by drawing Miller into the inner circles."

"Not since the days of John L. Lewis has the federal government paid such attention to the relatively small UMW."

It is clear from this article that the corporations view Miller's connections to the government as their best hope for heading off a miners strike under conditions in which the UMW would be in a powerful position to defeat the BCOA and inflict a heavy blow against the recessionary policies of Ford.

Not since the war has the

UMW been in a more powerful position to lead the offensive of the working class against the government.

The effects of a national coal strike would be devastating on all sections of basic industry. The steel industry reportedly has less than a two-week supply of coal and major mill shutdowns would be necessary. The railroads would also suffer colossal losses in revenues due to the loss of revenues from coal transport.

STRIKE-BUSTING

While Miller maintains his private contacts with the government, Ford is beefing up the strike-busting plans of the administration. The Federal Energy Administration has contacted utilities and requested that they prepare to sell their stock of coal on the open market in the event of a strike.

Furthermore, the administration is said to be discussing the use of the Taft-Hartley and the 80-day cooling off period to stop a walkout on November 12.

The developments in the UMW negotiations are of enormous importance to the entire labor movement. If Ford can get past the November 12 deadline without a strike and with a small wage settlement, the government's anti-inflation program will have gotten past a major hurdle and the way will be opened toward further attacks on living standards. The imposi-

tion of direct wage controls, to be applied first against smaller unions, would be on the agenda.

SPRINGBOARD

A strike by 125,000 miners, on the other hand, would be the springboard for a powerful mass offensive by the working class against the Ford administration. Miners occupy a key strategic position that gives the working class a great opportunity to defeat Ford.

Miners must insist that Miller go ahead with a national strike on November 12 and rally the entire trade union movement against the attacks on jobs, living standards, and basic rights by calling a Congress of Labor to build a labor party.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, industrial arm of the Workers League, is fighting to construct a revolutionary leadership against the Miller bureaucracy to fight for these policies:

- Shut the mines November 12.
- Across the board 25 percent increase with 100 percent cost of living escalator clause.
- No productivity deals or restrictions on the right to strike.
- Miller must get off the Labor-Management Committee.
- Stop the murder in the mines. Nationalize the coal industry under workers control with no compensation to the owners.
- Call a Congress of Labor to build a labor party.

Workers League
public meeting

10

years of the Bulletin

Friday Nov. 8 7:30 PM

Jenny Lynd Hall (ILGWU)
2267 Telegraph (& West Grand)
Oakland, Calif.
\$2.50; \$1.50 youth & unemployed

CARTA ABIERTA A LOS MILITANTES DEL PSP



Juan Mari Brás, Secretario General del PSP.

El acto del 27 de octubre, "Día en Solidaridad con Puerto Rico," toma lugar en momentos en que la clase obrera internacional enfrenta luchas revolucionarias.

Este domingo en el Madison Square Garden, el PSP (Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño) une fuerzas con el PIP (Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño), los nacionalistas afroamericanos, los Partidos Comunistas de Cuba, República Dominicana y Estados Unidos, liberales y el Partido Demócrata.

Ninguna de estas organizaciones políticas constituye ni apoyaría jamás a un partido revolucionario.

Estas organizaciones están presentes porque saben que el PSP no es la alternativa revolucionaria y que su política nacionalista de socialismo en dos etapas—independencia ahora y socialismo después—es una política de la clase media que busca la independencia de Puerto Rico con un gobierno de la burguesía.

HISTORIA

El PSP desde sus orígenes se ha mantenido como un movimiento de la clase media nacional.

Nace en 1959 del PIP, partido de la burguesía nacional, a raíz de la revolución Cubana y del descalabro electoral sufrido en las elecciones de 1956.

En 1971, oportunamente cambia de nombre y "adopta la fraseología marxista."

En esa época Mari Brás, Secretario General del PSP, escribió en Claridad:

"... al convertirse en el partido de la clase obrera, el PSP pretende subsanar una de las fallas históricas primordiales de todos los movimientos independentistas existentes hasta el momento, vale decir, su desvinculación de las demandas y anhelos de las masas obreras puertorriqueñas."

Lo que Mari Brás nos quiere decir es que debido al avance espontáneo de la clase obrera es necesario conducir este movimiento llenándolo de nacionalismo para usarlo en lograr la independencia de Puerto Rico con un gobierno burgués.

CRISIS INTERNACIONAL

El avance de la clase obrera en 1971 encuentra sus raíces en la crisis internacional del capitalismo que a partir del 15 de agosto de ese año entra en una nueva etapa de su decadencia.

En esa época Nixon anula la paridad entre el dólar y el oro poniendo fin de esta manera al boom post-bélico que permitió el desarrollo de Europa, Japón y Estados Unidos, y abriendo el camino para una recesión mundial.

Hoy la clase obrera se encuentra en la ofensiva internacionalmente. En Portugal existen condiciones de doble poder, en Inglaterra el triunfo del Partido Laborista con el apoyo del proletariado muestra el odio de los trabajadores al Partido Conser-

vador. Y aquí, en Estados Unidos, fue la avanzada del movimiento laboral que obligó a Nixon a renunciar.

Porque los trabajadores han dejado en claro que lucharán para defender su nivel de vida y los derechos básicos ganados en el pasado, el gobierno de Ford prepara la movilización de las fuerzas armadas y policiales para implementar las medidas recesionalistas adoptadas por Ford-Rockefeller.

Puerto Rico no es una excepción ni a esta política ni a la crisis internacional del capitalismo.

NACIONALISMO PEQUEÑO BURGUES

Que el PSP nunca rompió con la burguesía lo demuestra en su continua lucha por formar un Frente Popular con el PIP, el partido de la burguesía nacional con el que rompiese en 1959.

Ya para las elecciones de noviembre de 1972, a un año de haberse declarado "partido marxista" el PSP recomienda a las masas que "Aquellos amigos y simpatizantes nuestros que vayan a votar, les recomendamos que le den su voto al PIP." (29 de octubre de 1972)

Y refiriéndose al PIP y al PSP:

"... en este momento no hace falta en este país otro partido de la clase obrera, ya que esa función la cumple el PSP. Si hace falta como complemento a la lucha del PSP, un partido policlasista en el que pueda cumplir su función el sector patriota de la burguesía." (la misma edición de Claridad)

INDEPENDENCIA AHORA Y SOCIALISMO DESPUES

En toda revuelta nacionalista la burguesía nacional tiene el doble problema de establecer su propio poder derrocando la dominación imperialista, y detener las fuerzas de la clase obrera a la que tiene que movilizar para lograr sus objetivos.

Para el PSP la contradicción principal es entre la burguesía nacional y el imperialismo. El liderazgo del PSP y del PIP está compuesto en su mayoría por un sector de la clase media que debido al imperialismo norteamericano ha sido desplazado de la posesión de los medios de

producción.

La teoría de socialismo en dos etapas—independencia ahora y socialismo después—es usada por el PSP por el objetivo de ganarse el apoyo de la clase obrera y la juventud que están buscando una alternativa contra el aumento del desempleo a casi 30 por ciento, la inflación de 22.3 por ciento anual y la represión.

El PSP nunca intervino en las grandes huelgas de Puerto Rico con demandas Socialistas.

La teoría stalinista de socialismo en dos etapas, que niega el papel revolucionario de la clase obrera, se desmascara cuando el liderazgo del PSP dice que el período de transición entre la independencia y el socialismo es para educar a los trabajadores en el socialismo y prepararlos para él.

Los stalinistas han sido los primeros en apoyar esta política y la formación de "Frentes Populares Antimperialistas," porque buscan traicionar a la clase obrera puertorriqueña, así como traicionaron a los trabajadores chilenos.

El PSP apoyó el gobierno de "Unidad Popular" cuando fue Allende y los Stalinistas chilenos que prepararon el camino para el fascismo al negarse a implementar una política socialista y disolver el ejército.

Los stalinistas niegan la construcción de partidos revolucionarios independientes de la clase obrera. Ellos luchan en cada país para mantener al movimiento obrero bajo el dominio del capitalismo.

POR LA INDEPENDENCIA

El período revolucionario en el que hemos entrado hace que la burguesía nacional sea más reaccionaria aún. Para poder sobrevivir, ellos, al igual que el imperialismo mundial, tienen que atacar a la clase obrera trayendo políticas recesionalistas.

La independencia de Puerto Rico sin que la clase obrera tome el poder equivale a establecer un gobierno como el de República Dominicana o Haití.

La lucha del movimiento trotskista, del Comité Internacional de la Cuarta Internacional, es por la independencia política de la clase obrera en su lucha por el socialismo.



Mari Brás destaca

participación palestina

Cristianos apoyan

lucha PR

apoya

COMENTARIO POLITICO

La crisis no es mundial

El PSP en su periódico semanal, Claridad, nunca planteó demandas socialistas concretas.

Local 365: Demanden Huelga Nacional Del Auto

LONG ISLAND, Nueva York—Miembros de la Local 365 de la unión UAW están en huelga contra la Standard Motor Company, demandando un aumento salarial del 25 por ciento y fin a los actos brutales de la administración.

La huelga empezó el 2 de octubre como una huelga no autorizada. Los trabajadores rehusaron aceptar la propuesta del liderazgo de la unión de extender el contrato por 10 días. La huelga se hizo oficial después de que la internacional UAW por fin decidió reconocerla.

Los trabajadores no tienen ninguna confianza en el liderazgo oficial y eligieron un comité independiente para supervisar las negociaciones entre la UAW y la Standard.

Dentro de la planta, los trabajadores han experimentado el más cruel aceleramiento de la producción y deterioración de las condiciones de trabajo, conjuntamente con ataques arbitrarios contra cualquier trabajador que luchase por sus derechos.

La paga está muy por debajo del salario que los trabajadores de la GM, Ford y Chrysler reciben. La gran mayoría gana menos de \$2.50.

"Ya es tiempo que los trabajadores se unan," declaró Rafael Ramirez, que fue despedido el año pasado por su militancia.

"En esta planta a Ud. lo despiden y luego claman que Ud. se fue voluntariamente," dijo Ramirez. "Si Ud. abre la boca y habla, lo llaman comunista."

El 60 por ciento de los trabajadores son mujeres. Los patrones dicen que las mujeres tienen que trabajar al "100 por ciento de eficiencia" por ocho horas.

Ningún progreso en las negociaciones ha sido reportado.

La enorme crisis en la industria del auto, marcada por una baja en las ventas y planes de despidos masivos, tendrá un gran impacto en la Standard.

Es por esta razón que la lucha de los trabajadores de la Local 365 debe de ser unida a una campaña nacional de los trabajadores de la industria automotriz en contra de los ataques a los empleos y condiciones de vida.

Los trabajadores de la Standard deben demandar que la UAW respalde la huelga llamando a una huelga nacional en auto con el siguiente programa:

- Un aumento salarial del 25 por ciento con una escalada de 100 por ciento para el costo de vida.
- Ningún despido. 30 horas de trabajo con 40 horas de paga.
- Detengan el aceleramiento de la producción.

Leonard Woodcock, presidente de la UAW, ha demostrado una y otra vez que él no hará nada para defender las necesidades de los trabajadores del auto. No se diferencia en nada de Marco Cicala. Un nuevo liderazgo debe de construirse en la Local 365 como parte de la lucha nacional para defender a todos los trabajadores del auto.